PATENT
Appln. No. 09/398,665
Amdt. filed Mar. 9, 2005 with RCE,
responding to Office Action of Sept. 9, 2004

Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 7451.0005-01000
InterTrust Ref. No.: IT-7.1 (US)

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

121.   (Currently Amended) A rights-management method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at a first computer system, a request from a user to access electronic content, the electronic content having associated with it <u>a control set</u> <u>specifying</u> two or more alternative conditions for governing ~~the~~ <u>access to or other</u> use of the electronic content;

<u>in accordance with the control set, automatically</u> using at least one digital certificate associated with the user to select one of the conditions;

satisfying the condition; and

granting the user access to the electronic content.

122.   (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 121, in which the two or more alternative conditions include alternative requirements that payment information be sent to a second computer system before granting access to the electronic content.

123.   (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 121, in which the two or more alternative conditions comprise a specification of two or more alternative payment mechanisms.

124.   (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 123, in which one payment mechanism comprises a subscription.

125.   (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 121, in which a first condition comprises a first price for accessing the electronic content, and a second condition comprises a second price for accessing the electronic content.

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126.   (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 125, in which the first condition further comprises an indication of a first class of users authorized to access the electronic content upon payment of the first price, and the second condition further comprises an indication of a second class of users authorized to access the electronic content upon payment of the second price.

127.   (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 121, in which a first condition comprises an indication of a first class of users authorized to access the electronic content upon satisfaction of the first condition, and a second condition comprises an indication of a second class of users authorized to access the electronic content upon satisfaction of the second condition.

128.   (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 127, in which the step of using at least one digital certificate associated with the user to select at least one of the conditions comprises:

examining a first digital certificate to determine whether the user belongs to the first class of users.

129.   (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 127, in which the step of using at least one digital certificate associated with the user to select at least one of the conditions comprises:

examining at least a first digital certificate and a second digital certificate to determine whether the user belongs to the first class of users.

130.   (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 127, in which the first class of users comprises members of a first department in an organization, and in which the second class of users comprises members of a second department in an organization.

131.   (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 121, in which a first condition comprises an indication of a first tax that must be paid to a first

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governmental entity upon purchase of access to the electronic content by a member of a first class of users, and a second condition comprises an indication of a second tax that must be paid to a second governmental entity upon purchase of access to the electronic content by a member of a second class of users.

132. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 131, in which the step of satisfying the condition comprises sending a payment information to a second computer system, the payment information including authorization to debit an account by an amount sufficient to pay the first tax.

133. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 132, in which the second computer system is operable to receive the payment information and send the first tax to the first governmental entity and a payment to an author or distributor of the electronic content.

134. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer-readable medium, the computer program product including instructions that, when executed by a computer system, cause the computer system to perform steps comprising:

evaluating a control set associated with a piece of electronic content, the control set specifying two or more conditions for governing access to the electronic content, each of the conditions being capable of being selected upon detection of a respective digital certificate;

evaluating at least one digital certificate associated with a user of the computer system ~~to determine whether, and under which of two or more conditions, the user is authorized to access a piece of electronic content~~;

based on said evaluation of the at least one digital certificate associated with a user of the computer system, automatically selecting a first condition from the two or more conditions for governing access to the electronic content; and

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~~determining that the user is authorized to access the piece of electronic content upon satisfaction of a first condition; and~~

granting the user access to the piece of electronic content upon satisfaction of the first condition.

135.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as in claim 134, in which at least some of the two or more conditions relate to payment.

136.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 135, in which ~~a first~~ at least one condition comprises a first price for accessing the electronic content, and ~~a second~~ at least another condition comprises a second price for accessing the electronic content.

137.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 136, in which the ~~first~~ at least one condition further comprises an identification of a first class of users authorized to access the electronic content upon payment of the first price, and the ~~second~~ at least another condition further comprises an identification of a second class of users authorized to access the electronic content upon payment of the second price.

138.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 135, in which the ~~first~~ at least one condition comprises an identification of a first clearinghouse for accepting payment for access to the electronic content, and the ~~second~~ at least another condition comprises an identification of a second clearinghouse for accepting payment for access to the electronic content.

139.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 134, in which ~~a first~~ at least one condition comprises an identification of a first class of users authorized to access the electronic content upon satisfaction of the ~~first~~ at least one condition, and ~~a second~~ at least another condition comprises an identification of a

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second class of users authorized to access the electronic content upon satisfaction of the ~~second~~ <u>at least another</u> condition.

140.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as in claim 139, in which the instructions that cause the computer system to perform the step of evaluating at least one digital certificate associated with the user include instructions operable to cause the computer system to perform steps comprising:

evaluating a first digital certificate to determine the identify of the user;

evaluating a second digital certificate to determine whether the user belongs to the first class of users.

141.   (New) A method comprising:

receiving a piece of electronic content;

receiving a control set including at least two controls for governing access to or other use of the piece of electronic content, the control set specifying at least a first digital certificate or class of digital certificates required to make use of a first of the at least two controls, the control set further specifying at least a second digital certificate or class of digital certificates required to make use of a second of the at least two controls;

receiving a request from a user to access the piece of electronic content;

in accordance with the control set, automatically using at least one digital certificate associated with the user to select between the first and second controls; and

granting the user access to the piece of electronic content in accordance with the selected control.

142.   (New) A method as in claim 141, in which automatically using at least one digital certificate associated with the user to select between the first and second controls comprises:

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determining whether the digital certificate associated with the user falls within the first class of digital certificates or the second class of digital certificates.

143. (New) A method as in claim 141, in which the first control comprises a first payment method, and in which the second control comprises a second payment method.

144. (New) A method as in claim 141, in which the control set specifies a requirement that the user have a certificate from a predefined certifying authority.

145. (New) A method as in claim 141, in which the electronic content and the control set are received in a secure container.

146. (New) A method as in claim 141, in which the step of automatically using at least one digital certificate associated with the user to select between the first and second controls is performed within a protected processing environment.

147. (New) A method comprising:

receiving a piece of electronic content;

receiving a control set for governing access to or other use of the piece of electronic content, the control set specifying two or more alternative prices for accessing or otherwise using the electronic content, each of the alternative prices being associated with a respective user or class of users;

receiving a request from a first user to access the piece of electronic content;

using at least one digital certificate associated with the first user to automatically select a first price from the two or more alternative prices; and

granting the first user access to the piece of electronic content for the first price.

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148.   (New) A method as in claim 147, further comprising:

receiving a request from a second user to access the piece of electronic content;

using at least one digital certificate associated with the second user to automatically select a second price from the two or more alternative prices; and

granting the second user access to the piece of electronic content for the second price.

149.   (New) A method as in claim 147, in which the electronic content and the control set are received together in a secure container.

150.   (New) A method as in claim 149, in which the step of using at least one digital certificate associated with the first user to automatically select a first price from the two or more alternative prices is performed within a protected processing environment.